Russian Federation provides for import of 4 MMT crude oil, 0.6 MMT HSD and 0.5 MMT SKO from the Russian Federation during 1992. The contract for these supplies between Indian Oil Corporation and the concerned organisation of Russian Federation has not yet been signed. Schedule of supplies will be drawn up after the signing of the contract. However, an ad-hoc quantity of 60 TMT crude oil from Russia is expected during May, 1992. The Russian Government has given an assurance that they will fulfil their obligations under the Trade Protocol of 1992 for supply of crude oil and petroleum products worth US $ 650 million during 1992 and that they are providing special incentives to their oil enterprises to export to India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pollution by Vanaspati Industry

*125. MOHD. KHALEERLUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vanaspati industry falls under the category of polluting industry and cannot be set up in the cities having a population of more than 10 lakhs without an Industrial Licence ;

(b) if so, the details of the parties which have set up Vanaspati Units in cities like Ludhiana having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 Census ; and

(c) what punitive action is being taken by Government to stop operation of such unauthorised units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Vanaspati industry does not fall in the category of polluting industries in respect of which industrial licence is compulsory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Meter Gauge into Broad Gauge

*126. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared a target-oriented programme for the conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge during the Eighth Plan period ;

(b) if so, the details of the sections to be converted from MG to BG during the year 1992-93 ;

(c) whether complete conversion of MG to BG would be made during the Eighth Plan period ;

(d) if so, the allocations made for the said purpose ; and

(e) the details of the foreign assistance sought for the project ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha. (*See below*).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 559.40 crores has been made in the Budget for 1992-93.

(e) Nil.